

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently does not set a national primary standard for the acceptable amount of perchlorate in drinking water. Perchlorate is a component of rocket fuel used heavily by the military and its defense contractors. Scientists have linked perchlorate poisoning to disruption of the thyroid; this causes tumors in adults as well as behavior changes and delayed development in children. Communities across the nation are finding perchlorate in their drinking water, groundwater, irrigation water, soil, and food. Thus far, more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County alone have been found to be contaminated with varying levels of perchlorate, which eventually could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars for us to manage and contain.

Despite the hazards of perchlorate poisoning, the EPA has set no enforceable public health standard to ensure that our drinking water is safe and uncontaminated from perchlorate. In fact, the EPA has stated that it currently has no plans to set such a standard—and that even if it did, it could not begin to promulgate a public health standard for perchlorate until 2007 at the earliest. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of

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the U.S. Congress to guarantee that the public can trust its national water supply; that water providers have clear guidance about acceptable perchlorate levels; and that those individuals responsible for water contamination know that such actions are intolerable. HR 213 would require the EPA to establish an enforceable national primary standard for perchlorate in drinking water standard by July 31, 2007. Without such a standard, there is no requirement for water to have safe levels of perchlorate, and water providers will continue struggling to guarantee the long-term safety and reliability of our water sources. Inaction poses an unreasonable risk to both our nation's valuable water supply and the health of all Americans.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors support H.R. 213, the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2005, which would require the EPA to establish a national primary standard for perchlorate in drinking water by July 31, 2007.